ART AND ACTIVISM

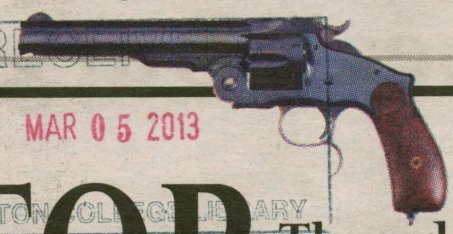
For a review of Rhodessa Jones' visit to the Hill, see **page 10**.

TRACK & FIELD SUCCESS

For a report on the recent success of Hamilton Track & Field, see **page 14**.

BULLETPROOF DEBATE

To read about the College Republicans and Democrats' gun control debate, see **page 8**.



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Thursday, February 28, 2013

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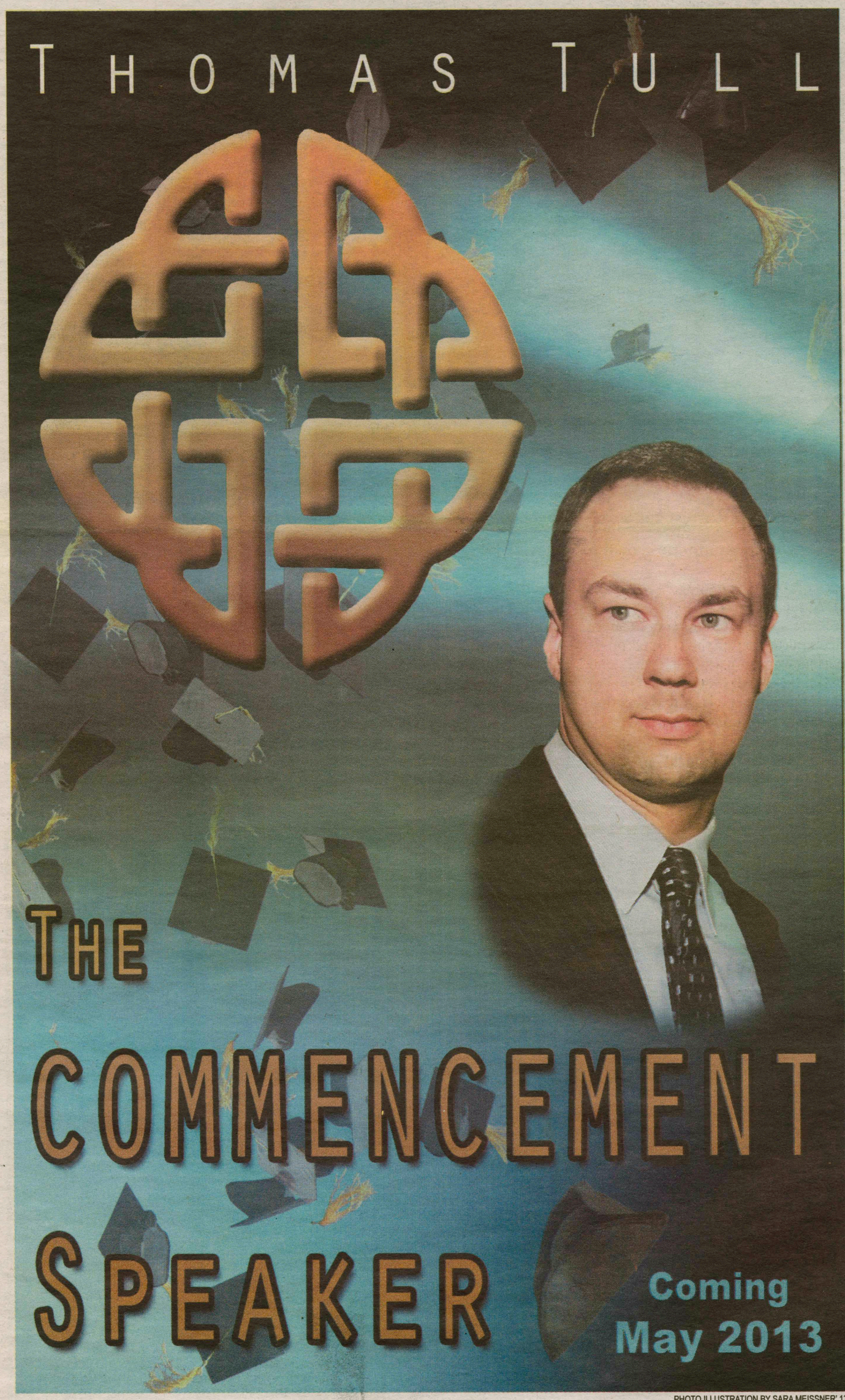


PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY SARA MEISSNER '13

by Rachel Lieb '13
Editor-in-Chief

What could be better than a superhero in our midst? The man responsible for creating some of our favorite superhero movies, like *Watchmen* and the *Dark Knight* franchise. Thomas Tull '92, chairman and CEO of Legendary Pictures, will deliver the 2013 Commencement address on Sunday, May 26, at 10:30 a.m. in the Margaret Scott Bundy Field House.

Tull intended to enroll in law school after graduating from Hamilton, but instead chose to return to his hometown of Binghamton, NY to start a series of small businesses, including laundromats and auto repair shops. After developing his businesses and selling them for profit, he became involved in the entertainment industry through the private equity field.

Before forming Legendary Pictures in 2005, Tull was president and served on the board of directors of The Convex Group, a media and entertainment holding company headquartered in Atlanta, GA. He is a member of the board of trustees of the American Film Institute (AFI) and Hamilton College. Tull is a minority owner of the Pittsburgh Steelers and also serves on the board of the Fulfillment Fund and the San Diego Zoo.

In a 2008 talk to Hamilton students, Tull explained that before making a film, he asks himself, "Is it a great story?" and "How are you going to market the film?" A self-proclaimed "film geek," Tull also asks himself if he would want to go see the film.

Legendary Pictures has teamed up with Warner Brothers to create some of the most successful and entertaining movies for nearly a decade, including *300*, *The Hangover*, *The Town* and *Where the Wild Things Are*. In 2008, Tull conceived of and produced *It Might Get Loud*, a music documentary featuring The Edge from U2, Jimmy Page and Jack White. Legendary Pictures will soon release *Jack the Giant Slayer* (March 1, 2013) and *Man of Steel* (June 14, 2013) with Warner Brothers. Tull is also developing a film adaptation of Milton's *Paradise Lost* for Legendary Pictures.

Tull will receive an honorary degree, along with famed fashion designer Oscar de la Renta; the Rev. Joseph M. McShane, S.J., president of Fordham University; and Xinran, a Chinese radio journalist and best-selling author. Honorary degree recipients are chosen by a special committee, made up of 13 trustees, including Chair Susan Skerritt K'77, President Stewart, Lori Dennison, three faculty members and three students.

Oscar de la Renta exploded onto the fashion scene in the '60s and '70s with his gypsy- and Russian-inspired collections. de la Renta is best known for his evening gowns, dressing stars from Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis to Anne Hathaway. He pursues charitable activities in Latin America, which have earned him the Juan Pablo Duarte Order of Merit and

see **Legend—wait for it...** *page 4*

Speak Out gives voice to eating disorders

by Kaitlin McCabe '16
ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR

The stigma associated with eating disorders as a result of media misrepresentation and unrealistic definitions of beauty has had the devastating effect of causing those experiencing such illnesses to feel ashamed and alone. And so, Hamilton College's National Eating Disorder Association (NEDA) has brought National Eating Disorder Awareness Week (NEDAW) back to the Hill this February with a reminder that "EveryBODY has a voice."

NEDAW, which the College community has now observed for three years, was created to prevent eating disorders and body image issues while reducing the stigma surrounding eating disorders through disseminating visual and statistical information.

The week's programming included a screening of the groundbreaking documentary *Miss Representation* and the welcoming of guest speaker Maggie Bertram—who previously suffered from anorexia nervosa comorbidly with major depressive disorder and obsessive compulsive disorder—to Hamilton.

On top of these events, NEDA decided to include a way for students to talk and connect about their own experiences with eating disorders and body dysmorphia—a "Speak Out."

While "Speak Out"s have been held in the past, Suzanne Adelman '14 insists that they "had a very different vibe. The one two years ago was a smaller event in the Glen House and more of a discussion."

This year, NEDA sought to bring students together in a larger group forum. According to Hannah Tessler '14, co-president of the College's branch of NEDA, the "Speak Out" was intended as a "safe space" for students to share their experiences or their loved ones' experiences with eating disorders and body image—experiences that "[have] such a huge impact on our lives but that [are] rarely ever talked about."

The Sadove Student Center Living Room, where the "Speak Out" was held, proved to be the safe haven of support that the members of NEDA hoped for. Students, both participants and listeners, formed a circle of trust with the Living Room's couches and chairs, filling the entire room to full capacity.

As the event progressed, more and more students found within themselves the courage to share their extremely personal stories with the rest of the crowd. The "Speak Out" was both an inspiration for students to reveal their struggles with body image and an opportunity to "highlight the complexity of eating disorders" and "to show that eating disorders do not happen out of nowhere but rather are a product of many different individual and societal level factors," said Tessler.

Hannah Fine '15, an active member of NEDA, pointed out the ability of the "Speak Out" to help individuals discuss their experiences as a group of nonjudgmental listeners, many of whom has similar stories.

Fine explained, "Together, we opened up about our experiences with an issue that truly changes lives. It was the first step in confronting disordered eating, and beginning the conversation about how to change the way our society views beauty."

Yet, as the statistics hung conspicuously around the Hamilton campus this week show, eating disorders and negative body image are issues that will not and cannot resolve during the days that we recognize NEDAW on the Hill. The prevalence of such struggles on a college campus is disconcertingly high and will continue to be so without proper treatment of these taboo subjects and the availability of resources and guidance for those suffering from them through the school community.

Those individuals who have suffered from an eating disorder and negative body image, or who know someone who has, understands the overwhelming feelings of isolation and despair that the illnesses create. NEDAW 2013, however, successfully articulates and emphasizes to the school community that their voices—their stories of self-loathing, depression and fear—will always be heard on the Hill.

PHOTO BY GRETHA SUAREZ '15

Eliza Kenney '15 speaks to a sympathetic crowd in Sadove Living Room at Monday night's Speak Out.

Campus Safety Incident Report

In an effort to increase Campus Safety's transparency and draw attention to students' dangerous and destructive behaviors, *The Spectator* will publish a selection of the Campus Safety Incident Report each week. Both Campus Safety and *The Spectator* will use their discretion regarding what is published.

Wednesday, February 21, 2013

1:23 a.m.	Noise Complaint – Babbitt Residence Hall (Exterior)
1:52 p.m.	Parking Complaint – Minor Theater
3:10 p.m.	Assist Other Agency – COCVAC Escort

Thursday, February 21, 2013

5:26 a.m.	Medical Emergency – Residence Hall
12:22 p.m.	Fire Alarm Activation – South Residence Hall

Friday, February 22, 2013

8:07 p.m.	Medical Emergency – Residence Hall

Saturday, February 23, 2013

12:32 a.m.	Marijuana Complaint – Babbitt Hall
1:15 a.m.	Noise Complaint – Babbitt Hall
1:43 a.m.	Criminal Mischief – Bundy Dining Hall
2:06 a.m.	Medical Emergency – Residence Hall
7:11 p.m.	Noise Complaint – Eells House
10:49 p.m.	Marijuana Complaint – Dunham Hall

Sunday, February 24, 2013

12:05 a.m.	Noise Complaint – Milbank Hall
12:08 p.m.	Medical Emergency – Martin's Way Bridge
12:19 a.m.	Medical Emergency – Carnegie Hall (unfounded)
12:31 a.m.	Marijuana Complaint – Wallace Johnson
1:11 a.m.	Trespass – South Campus Construction Area
2:12 a.m.	Bias/Gender – Village of Clinton / Dunham Hall

Hamilton Democrats, Republicans argue gun control

by Emma Laperruque '14
Features Editor

Hamilton had a duel Wednesday night. Albeit, the College, not the founding father, and about guns, not with them. At 8 p.m. in the Chapel, students gathered to watch the Hamilton College Democrats and Republicans face off on the issue of gun control. The event was sponsored by the two political groups, as well as by the Government Department.

Earlier this year, the Democrats and Republicans held another bipartisan debate, then in anticipation of the upcoming presidential election. According to Co-President of the Hamilton College Democrats Will Rusche '13, the debate on gun control "was both inspired by the success of last semester's debate and is also part of the ongoing effort by the HCDems and HCRepublicans to raise political engagement on campus."

This semester's debate posed the question, "Are President Obama's gun control proposals unnecessary, ineffective and unconstitutional?" President of the Hamilton College Republicans Sarah Larson '15, Brady Sprague '15 and Patrick Bedard '14 represented the pro-side to the prompt, as Hamilton College Democrats Secretary Deb Roney '15, Treasurer Keara Fenzel '14 and Social Chair Jake London '14 of the Democrats represented the opposition.

Moderating the event, James S. Sherman Professor of Government Phillip Klinkner introduced the question at hand and announced the format: five minute opening statements from each side, five minute rebuttals, 25 minutes of questions from the audience and five minute closing statements.

Starting off the gun control debate with a bang, Klinkner polled the room asking audience members to stand in accordance with their views: 18 stood, agreeing with the prompt, while 47 stood in dissent.

The Republicans attempted to sow the seeds of doubt surrounding the effectiveness of Obama's gun control policies. Hamilton College Republicans Larson led with a lyric from rapper Ice-T, "Don't hate the player, hate the game," saying such philosophy is "absolutely relevant in today's debate." She discussed the need to distinguish guns from violence, arguing that guns "aren't violent in themselves, and aren't violent unless they are fired." She continued to say that the American government doesn't have the right to take away Americans' rights and pointed to a gun's value for self-defense, notably for women in danger of rape.

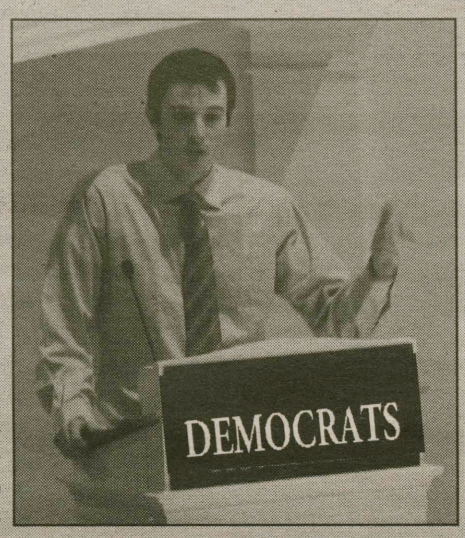
The Democrats argued that Obama's measures are necessary to curb the mass shootings that have been so frequently in the news. Opening for the Democrats, Roney asked, "How many more shootings do we have to have?" Though she agreed with Larson that American individuals deserve the right to bear arms, she argued that action must be taken to reduce gun violence.

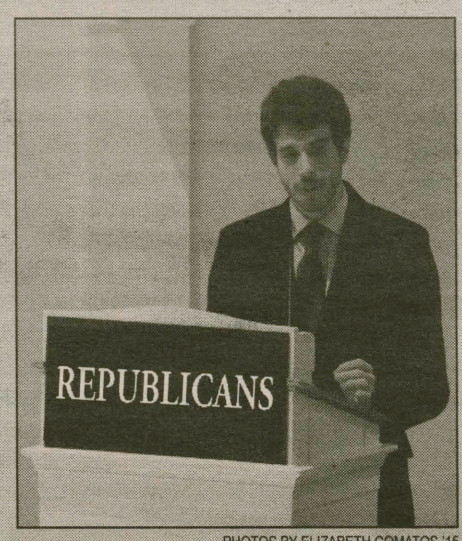
During the rebuttal period of the debate, the Republicans and Democrats attempted to shoot holes in their opponents' arguments. For the Republicans, Sprague argued that the Republicans agreed that something needed to be done in response to the Sandy Hook Elementary School shooting—just not Obama's gun control policies. "We think the responsibility of the government is to project your rights," while, "the democrats think it's the government's job to restrict your rights," said Sprague. For the Democrats, Kenzel addressed the prevalent illegal distribution of sales in gun shows. "Just because we have a few places that follow these restrictions does not keep guns out of the wrong hands," she said.

In closing, the Republicans reiterated their argument that Obama's policies would be ineffective. Citing statistics, he argued that the president's policies would actually prevent people from defending themselves. "For every 33 Americans that are killed, 4,000 people every day use a gun in self-defense."

For the Democrats, London closed the event by clarifying that the Democratic argument is not seeking to "infringe on your liberties, but simply restrict the purchase of guns in certain situations." Moreover, he pointed that while gun control is an effective response to the recent, horrific mass shootings, it is also not the only step necessary. Addressing the issue involves "not just gun control, not just mental health awareness, but also education and other programs that can keep people out of these violent acts."

Once the debate concluded, Klinkner re-polled the room. Each side lost votes, but there was no aggregate change amongst the audience, making one wonder whether the arguments and statistics weren't enough to convince audience members to change their minds or whether gun control is an issue on which people can't so easily be swayed.





PHOTOS BY ELIZABETH COMATOS '15

Jake London '14 and Pat Bedard '14 give their respective teams' closing statements.

Under fire: flame retardants linked to disease

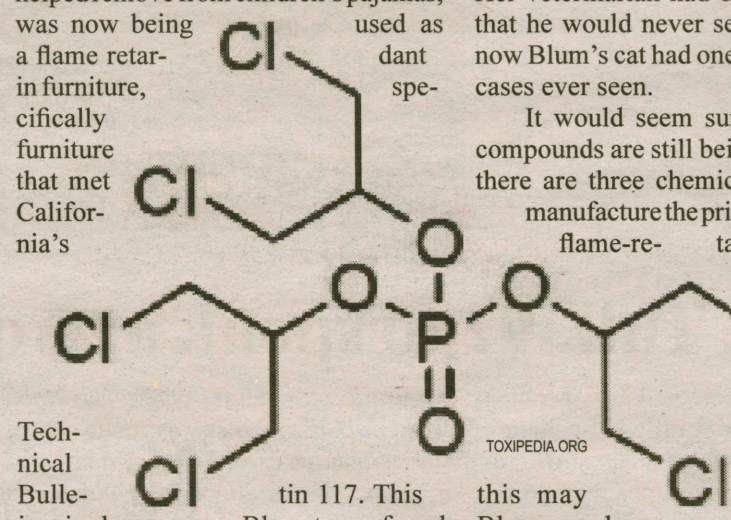
by Jill Chipman '14
Features Editor

Mountain climber, writer and environmental scientist Arlene Blum visited Hamilton on Thursday, Feb. 21, to give a talk titled "Mountains and Molecules." Blum first came to fame in the world of mountain climbing in 1970 as a member of the first all-female climbing team to ascend Mount McKinley. In 1975, she became the first woman to attempt the ascent of Mount Everest. She has since led several other notable climbs. Blum has also been instrumental in the regulation of flame-retardants in furniture and pajamas.

Blum, a graduate of Reed College, attributes a great deal of her success to the liberal arts education she received. Her education allowed her to think creatively and explore her interests. Blum began climbing, and after her experience with Mount McKinley in Denali, she realized that "one could do really tough things." She had several more climbing expeditions until the death of climbing friend Bruce Carson. She wanted to do something to preserve his memory and decided to apply herself to the world of chemical and environmental safety.

At the time, children's pajamas were treated with a flame retardant commonly referred to as "Tris." Children's pajamas contained up to 10% of the compound, which was transferred to the children. After researching the compound, Blum and other scientists discovered that the compound altered DNA and showed carcinogenic behavior. Just as her research was gaining momentum, Blum was invited to ascend Mount Everest. So while climbing the mountain, Blum wrote her paper and had it sent by mail runner. Shortly after publication, chlorinated Tris was removed from children's pajamas. It would be replaced by brominated Tris, which behaved similarly to chlorinated Tris and was later removed. Following this success, Blum returned to the world of climbing for 26 years.

In 2006, Blum's daughter encouraged her to reenter the world of chemistry. Blum learned that chlorinated Tris, one of the compounds that she helped remove from children's pajamas, was now being used as a flame retardant in furniture, specifically furniture that met California's Technical Bulletin 117. This inspired Blum to co-found the Green Science Policy Institute (GSP) in 2007 in an effort to educate everyone about balancing safety with chemical responsibility. The goal of the GSP is to bring more scientific research into the area of policymaking, especially policy that directly impacts human health. While the flame retardants used in furniture that adheres to certain fire standards are beneficial in that aspect, they can be long-term mutagens, such as Tris.



Blum cited Tris and PentaBDE, another common flame retardant, as two compounds that have been on her watch list. The GSP has been trying to educate people about the impact the use of these chemicals has caused. She notes that the chemicals have been introduced into the wildlife and new diseases are now being found in animals

To bring things closer to home, Blum discussed her cat, which passed away from hyperthyroidism, a disease that researchers believe may be caused by flame retardants. Her veterinarian had been told in school that he would never see the disease, and now Blum's cat had one of the most severe cases ever seen.

It would seem surprising that these compounds are still being used. However, there are three chemical companies that manufacture the primary compounds in flame-retardants. They spend a great deal of time and money advocating for their product. Although this may sound abysmal, Blum emphasized that it only takes a few scientists to educate others noting her visits to government offices as a scientist acting on behalf of public interest and not a chemical company.

Blum also shared the latest success story with the audience. As noted earlier, California's TB117 has been largely to blame for the use of halogenated flame-retardants. As of Feb. 11, California has drafted a new consumer safety policy regarding flame retardants. Rather than focus on the foam inside the furniture, like TB117 did, this new policy focuses on the fabric coating the furniture and emphasizes not using chemical flame retardants. This is a major victory for Blum and the GSP. Her next goal is to follow this legislation into practice and take the same approach to stain repellants and similar compounds.

Following the lecture, Blum visited the Chemistry Department on Friday morning where she spoke with past members of Professor Timothy Elgren's Chemistry 125 class. The class focuses on chemical toxicology and a large portion of the class is devoted to a lab project involving the detection and management of common compounds in our environment. Past projects have included arsenic in playground equipment, bisphenol-A in beer and bisphenol-A in toothpaste. Blum encouraged the students to pursue their interests and emphasized how a little bit of good science can actually change policy.

This was the case with the playground equipment. Several of the playgrounds were found to contain certain levels of copper, chromium and arsenic. The playgrounds were removed shortly after the lab report was completed.

"She inspires me as a scientist to further my understanding of how the current research I'm participating in connects with larger ideas of human and environmental toxicology," said Rachel Sobel '15.

Blum is looking toward the future and trying to find ways to educate society and start constructive dialogue regarding chemicals and their safety at both the public and governmental levels.

Writers Week brings readings, special events to the Hill

by Bonnie Wertheim '14
News Editor

Here at Hamilton College, we celebrate exceptional writing every day—by publishing student work in our campus publications, nominating individuals for Writing Center tutorship and praising our peers' efforts during Creative Writing workshops. But this week on the Hill, the College has chosen to honor writers from both near and far.

The English and Creative Writing Department's International Writers Week kicked off on Tuesday, Feb. 26 with a pizza party and screening of the 2002 film adaptation of bestselling author A.S. Byatt's Booker prize-winning novel, *Possession: A Romance*.

On Wednesday, the Little Pub hosted a Harry Potter-themed Trivia Night. Creative Writing senior concentrators Marty Cain, Anna Paikert and Dave Snyder emceed the event, which drew a crowd of superfans who were eager to show off their knowledge on J.K. Rowling's books and their big-screen versions.

"My team, J.K. LOL-ing, had a great time," said Meghan Doherty '14. "It was awesome when I knew the answer to really obscure Harry Potter questions. Finally I have a use for all this HP knowledge!"

The best of International Writers Week is yet to come, though. This Thursday, Kamila Shamsie '94 will take on any questions that the College community might have for her at 4 p.m. in Root 201. Shamsie grew up in Karachi—where her novel *In the City by the Sea* is located—and currently lives in London. She is not only a Hamilton graduate but a former visiting professor who is now serving as the College's writer-in-residence.

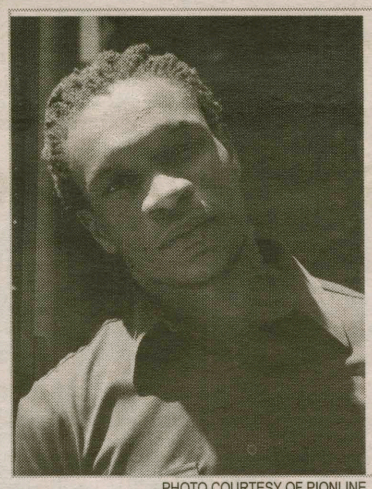
"She knows not only where our writing students are coming from but where they might hope to go," said Professor of English and Creative Writing Doran Larson.

Earlier this week, Shamsie paid a visit to Larson's Study of the Novel class, which is currently reading her most recent novel, *Burnt Shadows*.

This weekend is host to a series of readings. Friday at 8 p.m. in the Chapel, Byatt will read from her works, which include *The Children's Book and Ragnarok – the End of the Gods*. After the reading, she will gladly sign books.

On Saturday, Taylor Science Center is the place to be. At 10 a.m., the International Book Fair begins in the Atrium. All are welcome to join poet and essayist Ishion Hutchinson for a Jamaican breakfast at 10:30 a.m. before his 11 a.m. reading in the same location. Hutchinson's first book of poems, *Far District*, won the PEN/Joyce Osterweil Award in 2011. In G041 at 2 p.m., both Hutchinson and Shamsie will be speaking in a panel discussion about their favorite international authors. The week's events conclude with a reading at 4 p.m. in the Atrium by Shamsie.

PHOTO COURTESY OF ABOLITIONIST.COM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Clockwise from top left: A.S. Byatt, Ishion Hutchinson and Kamila Shamsie.

AMHERST BATES BOWDOIN COLBY CONNECTICUT COLLEGE

NESCAC NEWS

by Jack Cartwright '15
News Editor

MIDDLEBURY PROTESTS PIPELINE

On Sunday, Feb. 17, 50 Middlebury students traveled to Washington D.C. to join the Schumann Distinguished Scholar Bill McKibben at the "Forward on Climate" rally in Washington, D.C. It was the largest gathering on climate change in history. The main purpose of the march was to protest the Keystone XL pipeline that would carry carbon-heavy tar sands from Canada to Texas. President Obama needs to decide whether or not to approve the project. The attendees flaunted signs urging those involved in the decision making process to block the proposed pipeline.

McKibben thanked the crowd of some 40,000 people and urged them to continue their fight for action on climate change. Furthermore, he believes that Obama's choice could become a landmark decision in the movement for action on climate change. "If Obama rejects it, he'll be the first leader to turn down a project on climate grounds—that's a legacy and also a way to convince other countries to do the right thing," he said.

Hannah Bristol '14.5 thought that their participation helped contribute to the success of the protest. "It was really cool to be a part of [the rally] and to just look back and see [thousands of] people behind you, all there for climate change. It felt like we were really making ourselves heard," Bristol said.

WILLIAMS ADDRESSES SEXUAL ASSAULT CASES

Williams College Dean of the College Sarah Bolton recently gave the Williams student body an update on the Administration's handling of sexual assault incidents. Via email, Bolton reported that there were 13 sexual assaults on the Williams campus during the 2011-12 academic year. Three of the occurrences were committed by individuals who do not attend the College, which prevents Williams from taking disciplinary action against them. Furthermore, six individuals chose to pursue disciplinary action against the perpetrators–all of whom were found guilty. As a result, five students have been suspended for a period of time ranging from one to five semesters.

The email was sent to the student body, delivering on the Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention group's promise goal to achieve transparency with regard to the disciplinary process. While the group could report that these instances did indeed occur, Bolton's email addressed the fact that nearly 90 percent of the College's sexual assaults go unreported. The administration estimates that between 45 and 50 assaults happen on campus each year.

Bolton also announced the preventative measures the group is taking to stop future sexual assaults. The group has worked with the "Speak About it" organization to produce open discussion about sexual assault. Moreover, there has been an increase in bystander intervention training, and confidential services offered to victims of sexual assault. In addition, the group is looking to assess the effectiveness of the disciplinary process.

Finally, Bolton underscored that the Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention group is working diligently to address the situation regarding rape and sexual assault. Bolton went on to say there is more that needs to be done. "As an institution we still need to work on each of the key parts–prevention, awareness and response. There's still work for me and my colleagues to do on all of this. I'm also really impressed with the work students are doing."

MIDDLEBURY TRINITY TUFTS WESLEYAN WILLIAMS

Legend—wait for it... Tull '92 to speak at Commencement

from **Tull** *page 1*

the Order of Cristóbal Colón from his native Dominican Republic. Active in the American fashion community, he served as president of the Council of Fashion Designers of America (CFDA) and in 1990 the CFDA gave him its Lifetime Achievement Award. De la Renta won the CFDA Womenswear Designer of the Year Award in 2000.

Rev. Joseph M. McShane, S.J. will deliver the Baccalaureate sermon on Saturday, May 25, at 3 p.m. A New York native, McShane was ordained in 1977 after receiving bachelors and masters degrees from Boston College. After spending most of his career at different colleges, McShane assumed the presidency of Fordham University in The Bronx, New York. McShane is well known in Jesuit higher education for his collegiality and accessibility to students, faculty and staff. He helped establish prestigious fellowship programs at both Fordham and Scranton. During McShane's tenure as president of the University of Scranton, academic and residential facilities were enhanced significantly and the number of applications to its undergraduate program increased to historic levels.

Xinran moved to London where she wrote her best selling book, *The Good Women of China*, which was a collection of stories from her career as a radio journalist in China. Since the book was published in 2002, it has been translated into over 30 languages. She is also the author of *Sky Burial* (2004), *What the Chinese Don't Eat* (2006), *Miss Chopsticks* (2007), *China Witness: Voices From a Silent Generation* (2008) and *Message From an Unknown Chinese Mother* (2010), a collection of stories from Chinese mothers who have lost or had to abandon children. She frequently consults at the BBC and Sky television and has spoken to the British government on attitudes towards China. In 2004 Xinran set up the charity The Mothers' Bridge of Love (MBL), which reaches out to Chinese children in all corners of the world by creating a bridge of understanding between China and the West, and between adoptive and birth culture. The MBL book for adoptive families, *Motherbridge of Love*, was ranked third on *Time* magazine's list of the top 10 children's books of 2007.

Tull's winding career path will likely serve to inspire the Class of 2013, who may still be unsure about the exact direction their lives will take after Hamilton. He and his fellow honorary degree recipients exemplify the success that hard work and determination can bring.

Commencement 2013: A flaw in the formula

While the announcement of Thomas Tull '92 as the 2013 commencement speaker is exciting for the entire community, the lack of student input in the decision is troubling. While the Hamilton community of alumni certainly offers a wide range of successful and interesting men and women to serve as commencement speakers, opening the decision up to the student body would ensure that the speaker reflects the aspirations of the graduating class.

Currently, a committee of trustees, President Joan Hinde Stewart, Executive Director, from the Office of the President Lori Dennison, three faculty members and merely three students choose the recipients of honorary degrees and the commencement speaker. Trustees outnumber students on the committee 4 to 1. While we respect the Hamilton trustees, they may not always know what the students seek in a commencement speaker. Three students cannot possibly represent the thoughts and feelings of nearly 500 graduates. Commencement is too important an event for students to lose their voice, especially considering the strong network of great names that is left unexplored in the decision process.

One way to fix this underrepresentation of students in this important decision is to request nominations from members of the senior class in advance. Students were polled during the bicentennial celebration about who they would like to see deliver the commencement address and receive honorary degrees. As far as our records reflect, no such e-mail was sent out this year. It is very possible that a member of the senior class might have a connection or the ability to bring a particular person to campus. Without surveying the senior class, the committee would have no way of knowing the full extent of potential commencement speakers.

The last two speakers chosen for graduation have been Hamilton alumni. Opening the process to nominations by the larger community will work to expand the pool of possible speakers outside of the Hamilton network. Hamilton's refusal to pay a commencement speaker might explain the recent reliance on alumni speakers. However, it mystifies us that comparable institutions seem to attract more recognizable names to their graduation ceremonies.

A large draw to speaking at a Hamilton College commencement ceremony is the honorary degree awarded to each speaker, especially considering the lack of financial compensation for the speaker's time. By choosing speakers who have already earned Hamilton degrees, the College is selling itself short, diminishing the great honor of receiving a degree from one of the nation's top liberal arts institutions.

At the same time, we at *The Spectator* are excited to hear from Mr. Tull, considering his noteworthy career and his extensive experience in both business and creative fields. His story should make him relatable to a wide range of students. Last year's speech by Proctor and Gamble CEO A.G. Lafley '69 garnered mixed reviews; however, we have high expectations for this year's commencement. We encourage the committee who selects the 2014 commencement speaker to reach out to the student body, especially the senior class, to help guide their decisions in selecting a speaker and recipients of honorary degrees. The student voice should be heard from Convocation to Commencement.

The Spectator editorial represents the opinions of the majority of the editorial board. It is not necessarily unanimously agreed upon.

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Letters to the Editor Policy

The Spectator's Letter to the Editor section is designed to be a forum for the entire Hamilton community to discuss and debate campus, local, national and global issues. Pieces published in the section express the opinion of the individual writers and are not necessarily the opinions of *The Spectator*, its editors or the Media Board.

Letters to the Editor are welcome from all students, alumni/ae, faculty, friends of the college and Hamilton community members.

The Spectator has the following policies for submission:

1. Submissions are due by 10:00 p.m. on the Monday before publication. The editors reserve the right to refuse any late submissions.
2. Letters should be no longer than 500 words. The editors reserve the right to cut off letters at 500 words.
3. Letters submitted anonymously will not be printed.
4. The Spectator reserves the right not to publish any letter it deems inappropriate for publication.
5. If a piece is determined to be libelous, an unwarranted invasion of privacy, or an unnecessary and/or unwarranted ad hominem or personal attack, it will not be published.

About Us

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A call to arms for adamant individuals

by Samantha Wilson '15
Opinion Editor

There is nothing more discouraging for an editor of our Opinion page to hear than "What should I write about?" All I can respond with is "Well… your opinion." I often get a lackluster, noncommittal response such as "I don't really have any opinions." What? Seriously? You are a young, aware college student at an extremely volatile time in your life living at an even more volatile time in the world's history. How do you not have an opinion on anything? Upon reflection, I have developed my own three-part hypothesis explaining this baffling phenomenon. Our generation's lack of voiced opinions is the result of a mixture of apathy, the overwhelming amount of information we have access to and the fear of judgment we face with pretty much everything we do.

First of all, us young people don't seem to have any opinions because a lot of us just don't care enough to have opinions. We aren't really all that aware. Many college age students find themselves either completely apathetic to what is going on around them or just too busy to pay attention. When there are three-hour labs to participate in or 200 plus pages of reading to do per night, can you really blame us? Some may call this sort of thinking lazy; others may argue that it's just the result of prioritizing.

We are the generation of the information age. With the right key words and a strong internet connection, we could find out anything about pretty much everything. Every time you search something you will be flooded with page after page of information, most of which will be completely irrelevant to what you actually want to know. It takes time and energy to sort through this mish-mash of facts, figures and possible falsities. How are you supposed to know who to listen to? How are you supposed to know what the actual truth is, or if there is a truth at all? And when you've already inhaled all of this information and all of these viewpoints, why would you take the time to come up with an original viewpoint of your own?

The final point, which is, in my opinion, the most disturbing development, is that most college students (people, really) have valid opinions but are too afraid of judgment to actually voice them. Self-censorship has got to be the main factor in this unfortunate situation. Even at a school as open and free as Hamilton College, we can see this fear at work. Countless students would to have their voice heard in *The Spectator*, but a good portion of them will only do so if they are allowed to write or be quoted anonymously. We can't even compliment each other face to face; we have to go through a Facebook page. In some classes, doing thoughtful analysis and presenting your own personal argument backed by relevant evidence will not guarantee you success as long as the opinion you present differs from your professor's.

You can't do anything in this day and age without bringing judgment down upon yourself. Not only do we have to worry about the immediate insults and critiques that are likely to be thrown our way, but also all of the possible judgments in the future. Everything finds its way to the web, anyone can see it at any time, and you never know what could possibly be used against you. The fear of judgment is real, and to a certain extent very valid.

While I can think of all of these reasons for a potential writer to balk at my suggestion to write their own opinion without me spoon-feeding one to them, I must say that I do not really understand them. How can anyone expect to go out into the world and be a contributing, successful member of society when they can't even take the time or have the courage to formulate and present their own opinion?

College students are all at a unique time in your life, and at a very unique place. If there is any time and any place that you can get away with ranting about your own viewpoints, it is here and now. Take advantage of it.

Thumbs Up	Thumbs Down	Who Cares?
Felice Brothers Acoustic Coffee House: suddenly Hamilton students are exposed to country music that isn't that AA rendition of "wagon wheel."	Beach Party: a summer themed party is just a cruel reminder that you haven't cinched that clutch internship at your dad's law firm yet.	Harry Potter Trivia Night in the Pub: bonus points to the team that doesn't claim to know someone who knows someone who went to Brown with Emma Watson.
Sarah Tiana, comedian, coming to campus: Finally, CAB repping funny women (though the two of us are always willing, available, and desperate to perform).	There was a bat in Commons: well yeah, Bon Appetit is trying to focus on fresh, local food. Tomorrow: bat, parsley, and apple sips in McEwen.	Bookstore "Disappearing Textbooks" Email: Did you check the room of requirements? It's by the Annex.
Jamaican Breakfast Saturday morning: students unfazed after indulging in jerk tofu at the Global Station.	Gun Control Debate on Campus: Though everyone feels a little less liberal after the bat incident in Commons.	Exploring the Possibilities of Pleasure Talk in the Chapel: not to be confused with exploring the possibilities of pleasure in the Chapel. That's disrespectful.

by Wynn Van Dusen '15 and Claire Carusillo '13

Disclaimer: The opinions expressed in this column are purely of a satirical nature, and are not representative of the views of *The Spectator* editorial board.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Re: Dancing on the edge: Dance Department faces potential dissolution

I am writing this to express how dismayed I was after reading last week's front page Spec. story (Dance Department Faces Potential Dissolution). Secret ballot? The fate of an entire academic department was determined in secret, with absolutely no student input?

Even though I am not a part of the Dance Department and have never taken a dance class, this revelation left me unsettled. This decision, combined with the decision to deny Professor Ted Lehmann tenure after noticeable (and rare) student protest, sets a precedent on the Hill that I find particularly troubling.

As a Hamiltonian, I feel that student voices are being completely ignored during these important decisions. I have read past Spec issues in which administrators such as Dean Reynolds have stated that these decisions are very complex, and I also acknowledge their complexity, but as far as I'm concerned, that doesn't cut it.

We need to remember that Hamilton is primarily made and paid for by students, not faculty or administrators. Therefore students or representatives from the student body should have actual nonsymbolic power in deciding important issues such as the status of academic departments or professorial tenure. It seems only right to me.

I hope and think other Hamiltonians feel the same way I do.

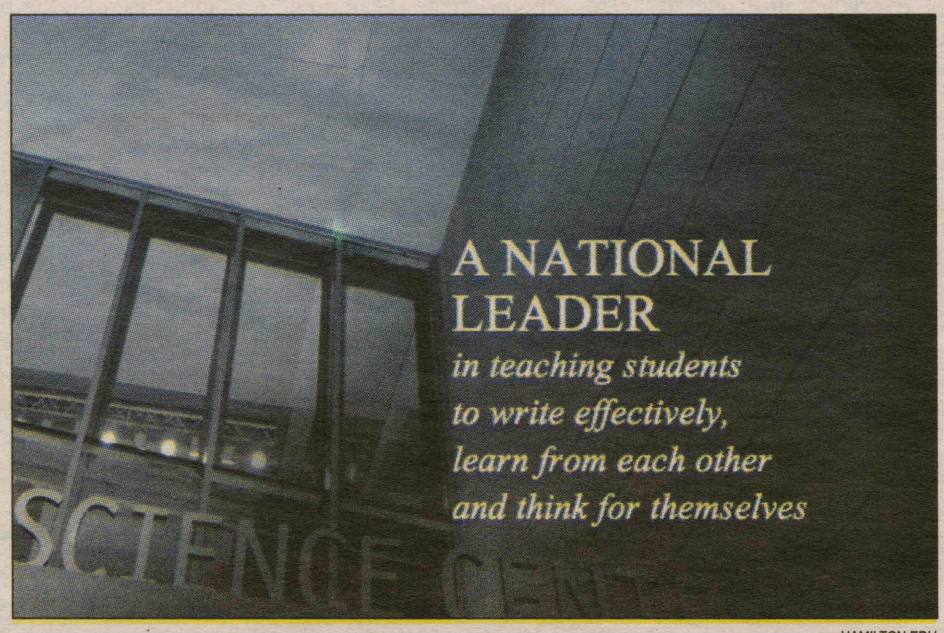
—Jason Ross '15

A writing tip for Hamilton College: there's room for improvement

by Marcos Sotelo '15
OPINION CONTRIBUTOR

Hamilton College prides itself on being a writing school. The College goes as far to claim on its website that it is "a national leader in teaching students to write effectively." Others seem to agree. Recently, *USA TODAY College* placed Hamilton College second in its "Best 10 American colleges for writers" list. If such emphasis is placed on writing, then where is it? The writing on campus exists, but is not emphasized. Academic writing, in the form of argumentative essays, is prevalent in most classes at Hamilton College. There is no doubt that Hamilton College teaches students to write analytically, but the problem lies in the lack of diversity in the writing that is taught. Where is the scientific writing, journalism or even workshops for screenwriting? If Hamilton College truly were a writing oriented school, then the focus on writing would not only be stronger, but more well rounded as well. To further establish Hamilton College as a writing oriented institution, change must occur by restructuring writing intensive courses, establishing courses promoting other kinds of writing and placing further emphasis on the English departments.

There is a general consensus among the student population that, with the exception of a few courses, most of the other writing intensive courses do not focus on writing at all. Instead, the professors in these courses assign about four papers throughout the semester, the extent of their writing instruction. Marie Murray '15 "think[s] it depends on which professor you have. Most of them baby you while others make it writing intensive." The quantity of papers being assigned is not the issue. Rather, the problem is that the writing is not emphasized. By this I mean there is neither instruction in writing analytically, nor any focus on the improvement of one's writing.



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Furthermore, the writing intensive courses, and even the writing in general, are not diverse enough to allow students to develop their writing in the field they are interested in. According to Linnea Hattery '15, a geoscience major, "[science majors] may write a lot of lab reports, but I don't think the sciences encourage writing or work to improve writing at all."

As a writing oriented school, why don't the science departments place such emphasis on teaching students how to write as scientists? Merely writing lab reports does not improve one's writing. If the professor is focusing on the numbers rather than the written text itself, then the students' writing is not even taken into consideration.

The majors and courses that Hamilton College does not offer further exemplify this inadequate diversity. One example of this deficiency is the lack of opportunities for journalists. We have publications ranging from *The Spectator* to *The Duel Observer*, yet Hamilton College fails to provide either a journalism major or journalism courses. Journalism is a popular method of writing, yet it is not even taught here.

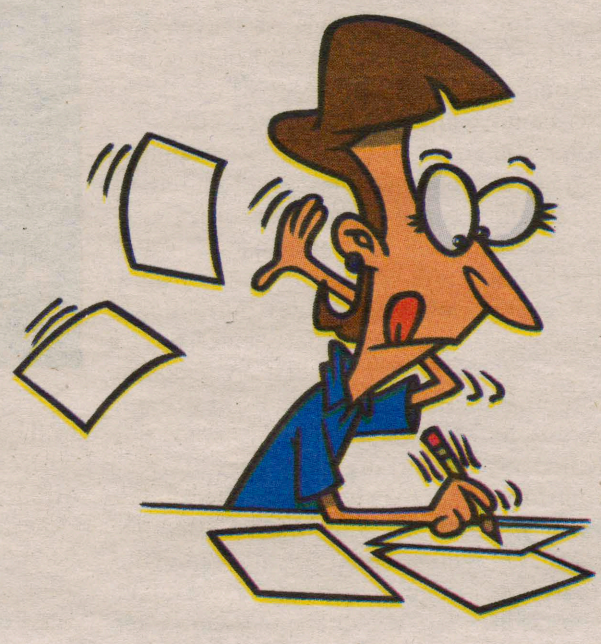
Rightfully so, the Creative Writing Department provides a wide range of writing, from playwriting to non-fiction. A large portion of the humanities incorporates a wide range of writing into their classrooms regularly. Yet, one can see the lack of emphasis placed on writing even by the buildings on campus. The newly renovated Science Center caters to the natural sciences while KJ houses the social sciences. All the while the humanities, almost treated as an afterthought, have little buildings scattered throughout campus. These buildings, albeit aesthetically pleasing due to their colonial architecture, do not provide the same equipment that the Science Center provides.

The study of the humanities might not need Bunsen burners, but a laboratory designated for these studies is not an esoteric thought, as is exemplified by Stanford University's Literary Lab. Stanford, according to their website "discusses, designs, and pursues literary research. [They] engage in a variety of projects, ranging from dissertation chapters to individual and group publications." Adding a similar literature laboratory to Hamilton College would provide exceptional opportunities to improve one's writing skills and allow students' work to be showcased, very similar to how summer research projects are displayed on large posters in the Science Center.

There is a clear bias shown on this campus toward certain concentrations, which is slowly being leveled by the building of The Ruth and Elmer Wellin Museum of Art and the upcoming studio arts and theatre building. Still, since Hamilton College is a writing school, one cannot help but ask: when can we expect this same funding for the humanities?

In the essay "From Work to Text," Roland Barthes writes, "what the (secondary) School prides itself on is teaching to read (well) and no longer to write." Barthes then goes on to explain that professors, conscious of the deficiency in writing, attempt to fix this repression by their misunderstanding of what it means to teach students how to write. Let's not make the mistake Barthes is warning against. To lead Hamilton College in the right direction, changes must be made.

Like to write, draw, copy edit or take pictures?
Join *The Spectator* staff!



Email spec@hamilton.edu for more information

Restaurant Review:

"Mmm, noodle soup!" Pho Mekong, a hidden gem

by Hailey Hayman '14
Feautres Writer

Pho Mekong House of Noodles is an almost invisible Vietnamese restaurant located on a barren cross section corner in Utica. Though we nearly drove right past the faded Pho Mekong sign, I am so glad we made it inside for a unique meal. The overall ambiance at Pho Mekong was a very relaxing distraction from the Commons chaos.

My dinner companion, Adi Fracchia, was quickly sold on the restaurant due to the presence of cock sauce at our table. For those of you who have also never heard someone exclaim about a bottle of cock sauce, she was referring to the Sriracha, which has a rooster on the bottle.

We were promptly served a complementary pot of steaming tea that Adi was literally inhaling throughout the course of the meal. Though tea was provided immediately, water did not come standard, so do not hesitate to request a glass, but be sure to emphasize the entire party is interested and not just the one asking.

In general our waitress had a minimal presence during the meal. The nice welcoming gesture of tea allowed us to peruse the daunting menu without such an overwhelming distraction of hunger. Though the menus are initially overwhelming due to the numbered foreign names and English description, the options are actually well organized to assist your decision-making.

We began with two types of spring rolls. I chose the Veg 61 Bi Cuon Chay, vegetarian spring rolls served with veggie soy sauce. I was intrigued by what exactly veggie soy sauce was, and though a good compliment to the spring rolls, I do not recommend putting the excess on rice, less than delicious.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF HAILEY HAYMAN'14

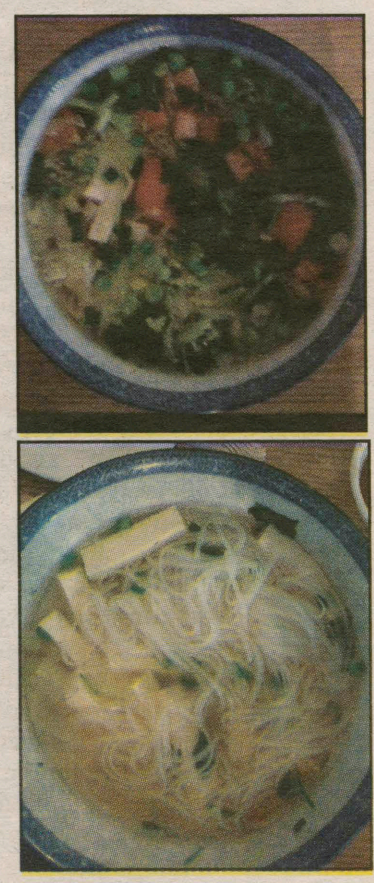
Customers at Pho Mekong are welcomed with piping hot tea and even "hotter" Sriracha sauce.

Adi selected the A1 Goi Cuon (fresh spring rolls), which included shrimp and chicken and were served with peanut hoisin sauce. I highly recommend a side order of peanut sauce to dress whatever you order: spring rolls, rice, veggies, meat, it can do no wrong to a dish.

I was initially drawn to Pho Mekong House of Noodles because of my unfamiliarity with the Vietnamese dish pho. Pho is a large broth soup with noodles and traditionally either beef or chicken with a smattering of various greens, but vegetarian style with tofu is an option. My bowl of pho was overflowing with broth, hidden beneath which was a seemingly endless mountain of noodles. It was pho-king huge, as evidenced by the before and after photos of my bowl. Even after eating my fill I had probably only consumed a quarter of the dish, but who doesn't love leftovers!

My pho experience is not one I would quickly indulge in again. I attribute my lack of enthusiasm for pho to the over abundance of bland tofu and imagine their other varieties are more flavorful. Ultimately what's not to like about a variation on noodle soup!

When you are ready to pay do not bother waiting for the waitress to retrieve the bill, simply take it to the front desk and you will be helped right away. I would not say the staff at Pho Mekong is neglectful, rather they choose to let you sit in peace to enjoy your companions and food without distraction. I left Pho Mekong House of Noodles feeling warm and relaxed and with an urge to return for more of their endless supply of Vietnamese cuisine.



Vietnamese noodle soup: be *pho*-r and after.

From Where I Sit:

Hamilton's international perspectives

by Jasmina Hodzic '13
Features Contributors

My first party at Hamilton ended with a river flow of tears by the steps of the Events Barn. Having experienced the great college phenomenon called grinding, complemented with kegstands and beer pong, a question began bothering me whose answer I was unsure of: What had I done? Why, why, why had I come here? Five thousand miles away from my country and inescapably trapped in the vast empty plains of upstate New York, I felt more far from home than even before.

The struggles persisted beyond the party scene, and coming to terms with college life meant first coming to terms with this country. One of the things I remember missing the most was the intensity of European identities: living in Bosnia, you are constantly embraced by Bosnian sounds, smells, looks and atmosphere. Here, everything looked more removed, detached, almost clinical.

And then in class, my ingrained sense of European skepticism made me cringe at every mention of the "Greatest Nation on Earth"; I felt offended by unjustified patriotism and uncritical rhetoric about freedom and democracy. I wondered how one could ever feel captured or fascinated by a society so fluid and neutral, yet so firm in its own complacency.

Four years later, these impressions are still there. But they have been deepened by a more subtle understanding of the complexity of this country, and an appreciation for all things that Hamilton has to offer. I found that beneath the seemingly fluid and neutral feel lies incredible richness and diversity in which every individual can find his or her own place.

At Hamilton more than anywhere else, the identity of the community is reflected not in the intensity of a uniform trait, opinion, look or archetype, but rather in the dynamic multitude of unique individuals who make up the Hamilton unique. It is a community that nests the streaking team just as well as the football team, that integrates members of Greek life just as well as international students and that draws its social tradition both from all-female Kirkland and from former all-male Hamilton.

In that sense, the oftencited American freedom has for me taken the meaning of the continued capacity of this community to let people from around the world feel like they are a part of it, in some small way. Not necessarily be integrated, maybe not even feel at home, but still belong to a certain niche in which to get meaningfully involved.

Its seemingly ubiquitous complacency is obscured by some of the most critical academic thought out there, which embraces every and any opinion as a valuable contribution to our intellectual debates. Such a complex mix of individuals and opinions, which I still struggle to comprehend, has made this a marking experience in which home is less about the sounds, smells and atmosphere, and more about the inconspicuous comfort of the niche I've found.

My American friends often tell me they tend to forget that I am foreign. While at first this struck me as insensitive, today I see it as evidence of how warmly I've been welcomed to this community. In a place where everyone is in some way different, it is the common experience of academic and personal growth that makes us all equal.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF JASMINA HODZIC '13

Four years later, the bubble and the vast empty plains of upstate New York make me feel safe rather than trapped, and I will leave knowing that I will forever have a place, a niche, to return to.

"From Where I Sit" is a column dedicated to the international voices of Hamilton's campus. If you are an international student and are interested in contributing a column, contact Barbara Britt-Hysell (bbritthy@hamilton.edu)

Bachelor and Bachelorette

Larry Zhang '13

COURTESY OF LARRY ZHANG '13

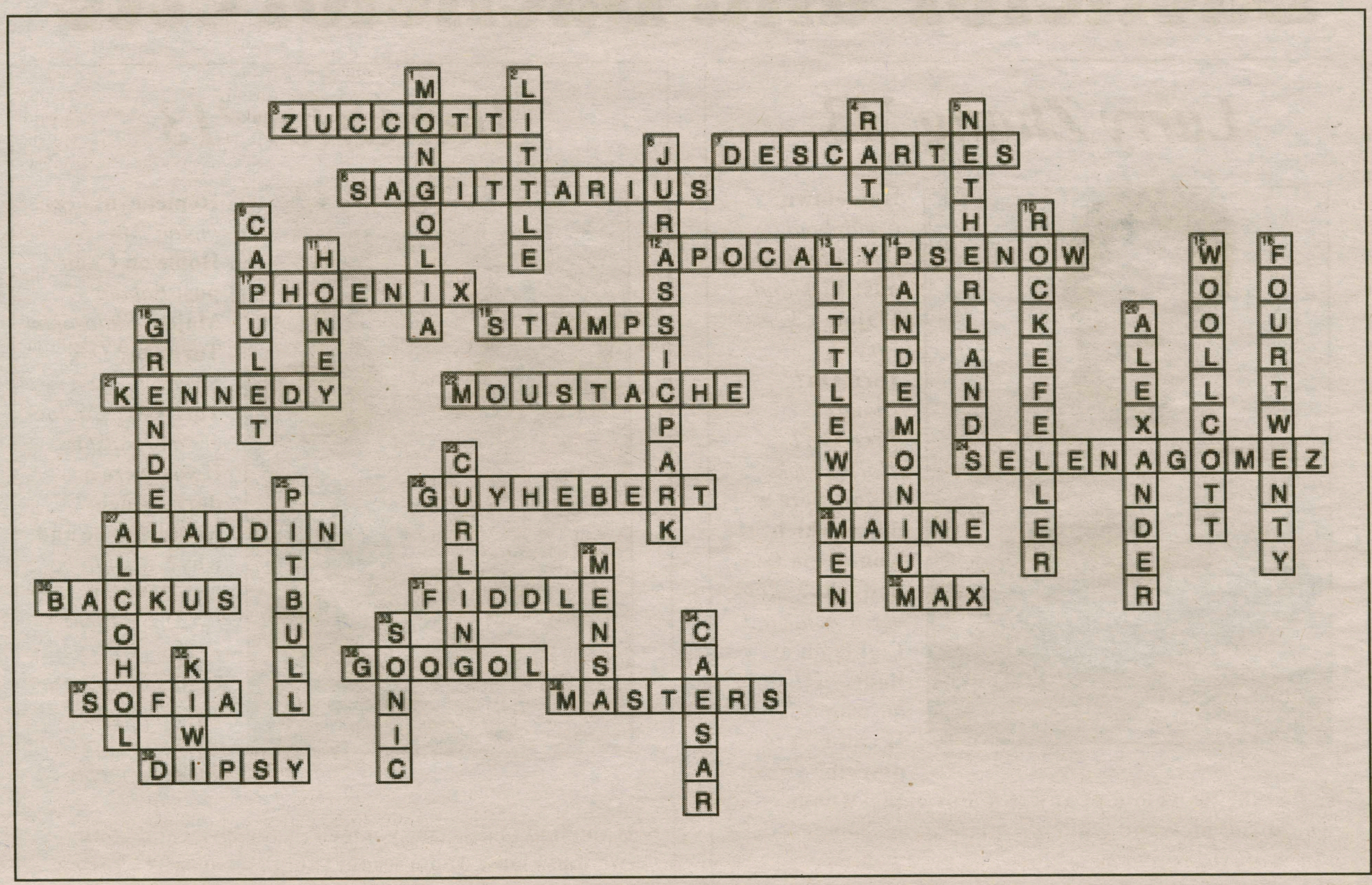
Hometown: *Candyland*
Home on Campus: *Kirkland*
Major: *Chemistry*
Turn On? *Thongs*
Turn Off? *Alarm clocks*
If you were a dorm which would you be and why? *Rogers: I'm far out.*
Lights on or lights off? *Clap on-clap off light*
If you had to describe yourself as the love child of any two musicians, whom would you pick and why? *Psy and Celine Dion, because I'm Asian and Canadian.*
What advertising slogan best describes your life? *"Subway. Eat Fresh."*
What TV genre best describes you? *Teen drama*
What's the best pick-up line you've ever used/had used on you? *"The Great Wall isn't the only big thing from China."*
What's your type? *Ice cold b*tches*
What are three things you cannot live without? *Computer, my glasses and my furby.*
If you were any social space, what would it be? *Third floor of Sadove where everyone plays video games.*
Where do you go when you want to be alone? *The Glen*
If you could join one group on campus, what would it be? *Streaking Team.*
If you could get rid of one group on campus, what would it be and why? *The Daily Bull, no justification required.*
What's your spirit animal and why? *Asian Fire Bellied Toad.*
If you could break one rule at Hamilton and get away with it, which would you choose? *There are rules here?*
What would you give a thumbs up? *Diner Buffalo chicken wrap*
What would you give a thumbs down? *9 a.m. classes*
Who would you say is your campus crush? *Dr. Dan.*
Who would you say is your faculty crush? *Robert Kantrowitz.*
What would your perfect date be? *China Sea, Iron Man II, and a LAN Party.*
What is the weirdest thing currently in your room? *A flying squirrel.*
If you could remake the points system, what would be the number one offense? *Overly eager freshmen.*
If you were a food, which would you be and why? *Asian bun pastry...*

Alex Orlov '13

COURTESY OF ALEX ORLOV '13

Hometown: *Lexington, MA*
Home on Campus: *Babbitt*
Major: *Philosophy*
Turn On? *Dog lovers*
Turn Off? *Cat lovers and fratstars.*
If you were a dorm which would you be and why? *Babbitt because I'm all about the Minor Field view.*
Lights on or lights off? *I'm a philosophy major and I don't like dichotomies.*
If you had to describe yourself as the love child of any two musicians, whom would you pick and why? *There's an 80% chance I'm tone deaf, but probably: JT and JT (James Taylor and Justin Timberlake)*
What advertising slogan best describes your life? *"The snack that smiles back."*
What TV genre best describes you? *RomCom minus the rom. So maybe com.*
What's the best pick-up line you've ever used/had used on you? *"This is inevitable."*
What's your type? *-__- ... Someone who won't mock me for my love of emoticons and emojis.*
What are three things you cannot live without? *Hot beverages, chapstick and McEwen sips.*
If you were any social space, what would it be? *The hub because not everyone knows how secretly awesome it is.*
Where do you go when you want to be alone? *Language lab in CJ. They have some sweet headphones.*
If you could join one group on campus, what would it be? *Chair Massage Tuesdays*
What's your spirit animal and why? *Dog because I'm pretty upbeat, loyal, cuddly, and I like chasing Frisbees.*
If you could break one rule at Hamilton and get away with it, which would you choose? *I would totally abuse my mass email privileges. There are so many good YouTube dog videos that the Hamilton campus could benefit from watching.*
What would you give a thumbs up? *Street food in Mcewen*
What would you give a thumbs down? *Every time I almost faceplant on black ice.*
Who would you say is your campus crush? *Definitely Helen Spencer Higgins.*
What would your perfect date be? *Ice skating... with dogs.*
What is the weirdest thing currently in your room? *Helen Higgins... and her artwork that we decided to smash.*
If you were a food, which would you be and why? *Flambé because I'm a ginger.*

The Spectator crossword puzzle solution



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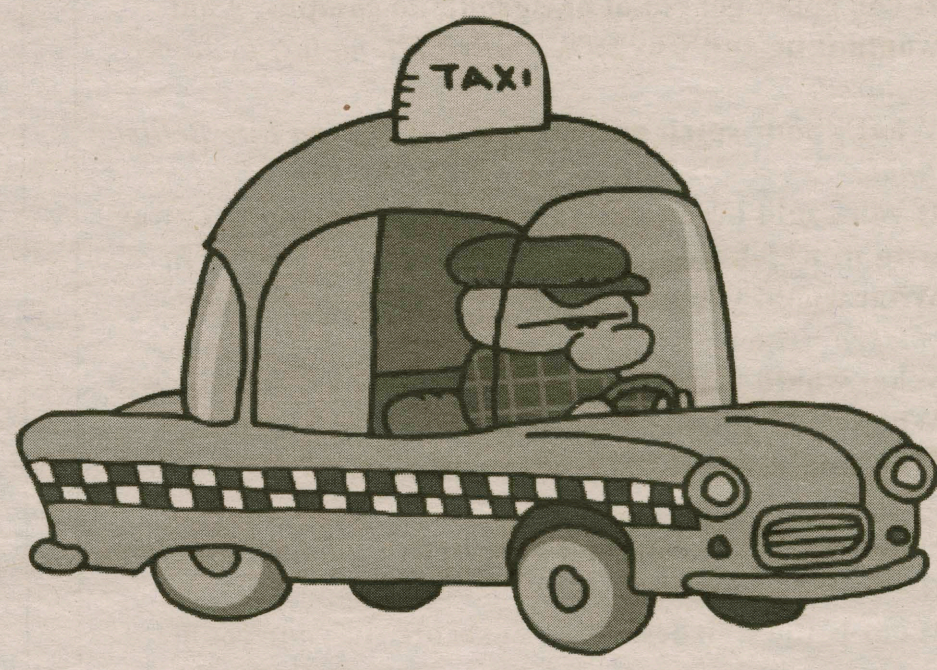


(315)507-2171

Jones and Ackamoor combine performance and activism

by Kaitlin McCabe '16
ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR

Hamilton College has once again found a unique way to combine academia and activism. Through a partnership with a variety of departments, including the Days-Massolo Center, the Comparative Literature Department and the Performing Arts Department, the College hosted a residency by Cultural Odyssey's Rhodessa Jones and her partner Idris Ackamoor.

Founded in 1979 by Ackamoor, Cultural Odyssey is one of California's oldest African American performing arts agencies. Jones, who joined Cultural Odyssey in 1983, has developed a unique method of combining art and activism, in addition to her work with this performance group, by working in prisons with incarcerated women. Through working with these women the performer come to realize that female inmates often respond to their sentences with feelings of guilt, depression and self-loathing. To confront such emotions and raise awareness about the hardships of incarcerated women and other groups, Jones created *The Medea Project: Theater for Incarcerated Women/HIV Circle.* Through this project, she demonstrates that art has the potential not only to promote health and social justice but also to help the inmates reduce their powerful negative emotions and prevent recidivism.

Hamilton College's ability to welcome such an influential performer is easily attributed to the fandom of the Comparative Literature Department's Nancy Rabinowitz. Fascinated by Jones's blending of antiquity with modern social issues in works such as *Medea,* Rabinowitz wrote a letter to express her amazement and love of the project. The result was a unique "internship" with the performer in California, during which time Rabinowitz helped Jones organize material for a book. Yet working alongside her creative idol was more than just an intriguing work opportunity; through assisting Jones in performances with inmates, Rabinowitz was able to "bring aspects of [her] life together" in the form of a "support group." This emotional experience filled the professor with the desire to share Jones's energy with the rest of the Hamilton community.

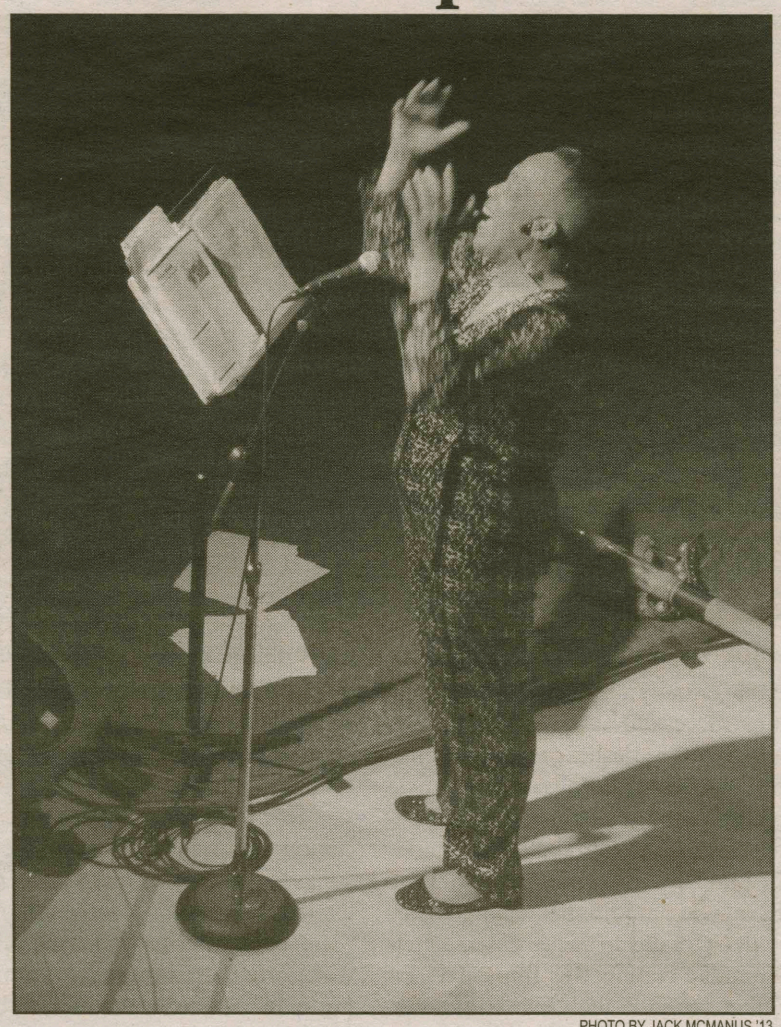


PHOTO BY JACK MCMANUS '13

Jones performs a monologue in the Fillius Events Barn.

On Monday, Feb. 25, Jones performed pieces from *The Medea Project: Theater for Incarcerated Women/HIV Circle* in the Kennedy Auditorium of the Taylor Science Center. In this workshop, Jones addressed the use of theater as a "healing tool." Watching excerpts from the performance and short footage from Italian, African and American prisons moved and inspired students and faculty alike. Kevin Welsh '15 said, "It was very cool to see the relevance [of the Medea story] after 3000 years."

The Hamilton community had an opportunity to have an intimate discussion with Jones on Tuesday, Feb. 26, during which time the performer expressed her dedication to and passion for her work with incarcerated women. "I think I was sent," she explained of her reasons for helping these individuals. Originally, Jones said, she was teaching aerobics to the women in prisons. Upon seeing that their pain and anger made them uninterested in any exercise, Jones decided that the women needed an outlet to express their emotions and come to terms with their true selves. Encouraging women to speak honestly about their history "puts lives on the table," she explained. "Women caught on the other side of the law face oppression in a violent way… [They] need a voice." With the women, Jones organized lengthy periods for the inmates

see ***Rhodessa Jones*** *page 12*

The Medea Project teaches through spoken word poetry

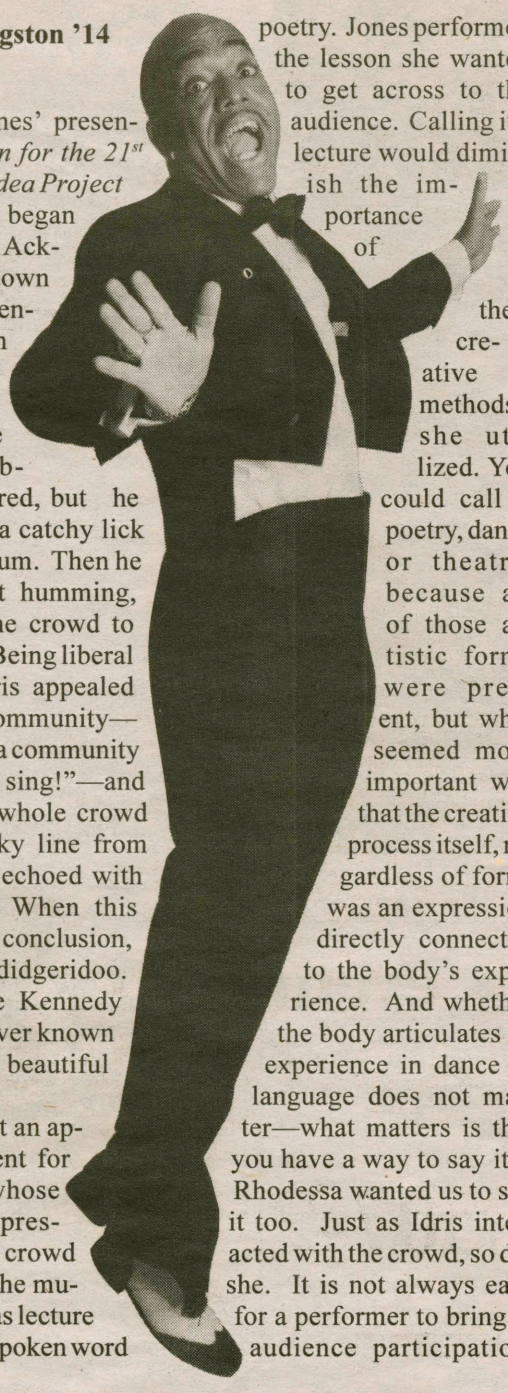
by Nathan Livingston '14
STAFF WRITER

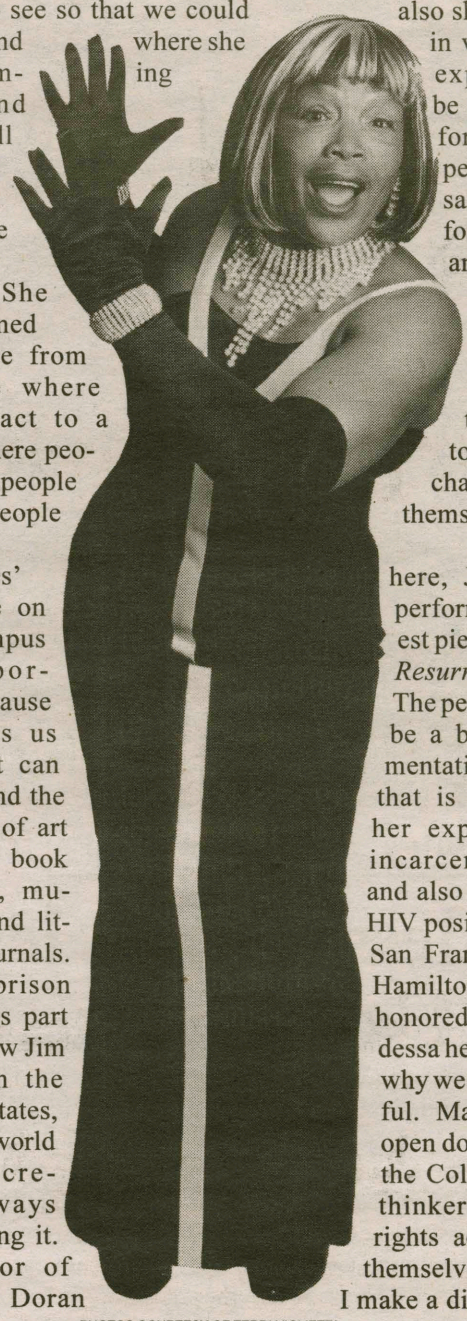
Rhodessa Jones' presentation of *A Woman for the 21st Century – The Medea Project* this past Monday began with music. Idris Ackamore slithered down the aisle of the Kennedy Auditorium playing an offbeat dirge with his saxophone. The notes started abstract and splattered, but he skillfully crafted a catchy lick that was easy to hum. Then he actually did start humming, and he invited the crowd to repeat after him. Being liberal arts students, Idris appealed to our sense of community—"come on! This is a community thing here, now sing!"—and so we did. The whole crowd hummed the funky line from nowhere, and he echoed with his saxophone. When this came to its natural conclusion, he pulled out his didgeridoo. I don't think the Kennedy Auditorium has ever known such strange and beautiful sounds.

The music set an appropriate precedent for Jones herself, whose magnetic stage presence centered the crowd as effectively as the music. What started as lecture transformed into spoken word poetry. Jones performed the lesson she wanted to get across to the audience. Calling it a lecture would diminish the importance of the creative methods she utilized. You could call it poetry, dance or theatre, because all of those artistic forms were present, but what seemed more important was that the creative process itself, regardless of form, was an expression directly connected to the body's experience. And whether the body articulates its experience in dance or language does not matter—what matters is that you have a way to say it. Rhodessa wanted us to say it too. Just as Idris interacted with the crowd, so did she. It is not always easy for a performer to bring in audience participation. Every crowd has a tendency to be reluctant, especially here, but that was no barrier on Monday night. Rhodessa inspired you to be expressive, and you were happy to play along.

Rhodessa's and Idris's insistence that the crowd participate reflected the creative work she does in jails, where she merges creativity with social justice in a cooperative environment. Rhodessa brings the liberating power of artistic expression to incarcerated women through the *Medea Project*. Jones told us many powerful stories about the troubled women she had met in jail. By encouraging incarcerated women to find a voice of their own through creative expression on stage, through theatre and dance and music, she was able help many find meaning in a world that had been mean and unfair to them.

Jones has a simple love for the people she works with in prison. "You have to care," she said, "and really care. Because people can tell when you're being fake." Her desire to see female inmates open up to her and to the world requires a lot of personal and emotional investment. She has to care about listening and also about expressing herself in the same way that she encourages others to do. In Monday's performance, Jones was very forthcoming about her personal life. She put trouble and hurt and pain out there for all to see so that we could understand where she was coming from and where all mistreated women are coming from. She transformed the stage from a place where people act to a place where people live, people cry and people change.





PHOTOS COURTESY OF TERRI VIGLIETTA

Jones' presence on this campus is important because it shows us what art can do beyond the vacuum of art exhibits, book reviews, museums and literary journals. If the prison system is part of the new Jim Crow in the United States, then the world needs creative ways of fighting it. Professor of English Doran Larson's prison writing class also shows the ways in which creative expression can be life changing for incarcerated people. Rhodessa holds that performance can be an exorcism of guilt, the act of which allows people who have no where to go but back to the jail cell a chance to forgive themselves.

In her time here, Jones will be performing her newest piece entitled *The Resurrection of SHE.* The performance will be a blend of documentation and theatre that is expressive of her experience with incarcerated women and also her work with HIV positive women in San Francisco. We at Hamilton College are honored to have Rhodessa here to challenge why we think art is useful. May her presence open doors and inspire the College's creative thinkers and human rights activists to ask themselves "where can I make a difference?"

F.I.L.M. series presents Indonesian trilogy

by Taylor Coe '13
CREATIVE DIRECTOR

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Director Leonard Retel Helmrich demonstrates his homemade gear.

A man quickly—almost carelessly—walks along the side of a railroad trestle, hundreds of feet above the rice paddies below. It's a striking image, made all the more striking once one notices how the camera, with equal fearlessness, drifts out over the abyss, swings back over the trestle and then lingers just over the man's head as he quick-steps his way along the tracks.

This trestle episode is only one of several breathtaking moments in Dutch filmmaker Leonard Retel Helmrich's documentary film *The Shape of the Moon*, his second film in a trilogy that follows three generations of the Sjamsuddin family in Indonesia.

Never seeming tethered to an actual filmmaker, Retel Helmrich's cameras float over abysses, drift over streets and nearly knock themselves against the faces of the subjects of this masterful documentary film. In many ways representative of typical fly-on-the-wall documentary cinema, this film surpasses traditional observational cinema in its attention to both breadth and depth.

As fascinated by ants carrying the corpse of a cricket as by a train barreling through a shantytown, the film offers a more immersive experience than any tourist trip to the country. There are moments of unspeakable sadness: a section of the Jakarta slums being engulfed in a fire, a girl separated from her grandmother, an elderly woman who struggles to find harvesting work in the fields.

The first film in the trilogy, *Eye of the Day*, represents an introduction to the family and, while visually and culturally arresting, is not as successful as its follow-up. *The Shape of the Moon* fleshes out several films' worth of troubling dynamics—the intimate interrelationships of a family, the strife between conservative Islam and other religions and the pull between urban and rural life.

Eschewing traditional documentary possibilities for dream sequences and metaphor-minded editing, this film offers far more than simply a look into Indonesian life. For instance, the scene of a usurer reclaiming a couch owned by the family is intercut with the close-up observation of a lizard snatching insects. These metaphorical moments recur throughout the film, pushing the context of the film outwards from just the family itself. In fact, the film seems to understand the Sjamsuddin family, foreign and removed from a Western audience though they are, as participants in a series of struggles that are universal rather than specific in nature.

Retel Helmrich will be visiting the campus on March 2 as part of the F.I.L.M. series to present *Position Among the Stars*, the final film of his trilogy. Following the Sjamsuddin family a final time, the film watches as the family negotiates the changing cultural and economic landscape of modern Indonesia.

Like the other films in the trilogy, *Position Among the Stars* has garnered several notable awards, in particular the award for best feature-length documentary at the Amsterdam International Documentary Film Festival. The film will be shown at 2 p.m. in the Bradford Auditorium in Kirner-Johnson.

PHOTO BY MICHAEL BATSON '16

Award-winning flautist Amy Porter performed in Wellin Hall on Feb. 22.

Rhodessa Jones leads mixed media event

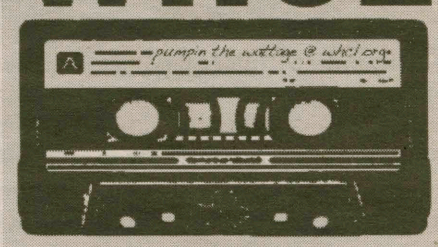
from ***Rhodessa Jones*** *page 11*

to simply scream. This allowed them to "knock down walls" and face their emotions head on. Not only did Jones help the women learn to connect to their own selves—she showed them how to understand other women. It was an opportunity to develop a notion of female empowerment among women who had so violently been oppressed by men and society.

On Wednesday, Feb. 27, Jones performed her latest work based in classical myth, "The Resurrection of SHE: From Frisco to Soweto." The show, which featured Ackamoor, was an evening of spoken word and interdisciplinary performance held in the Events Barn for the entire campus to attend.

Rhodessa Jones' and Idris Ackamoor's presence on the Hill brings awareness to the struggles of others in our local community. Though Jones insists that "we are not far from them," our privileges in life have unintentionally created a social divide between the inmates the performer works with and students at Hamilton. After hearing the inspirational stories of the guest performer, one must wonder whether students at Hamilton are more than the "Patagonia-wearing fresh faces" Professor Rabinowitz claims inmates perceive us as.

WHCL



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Sounds Like:
A talk show/radio show/two friends just kickin' it and having fun.

Expect to hear:
Chocolate/Vanilla/Caramel Pick of the Week, Tell me why..., #, Weekend Fashion oopsies... anything we're feeling for the day really :)

What song do you love (or love to hate) in the Diner Jukebox?
We hate anything involving heavy metal and love everything featuring Kanye West, Jay-Z and Two Chainz.

Albums or songs you can expect to hear:

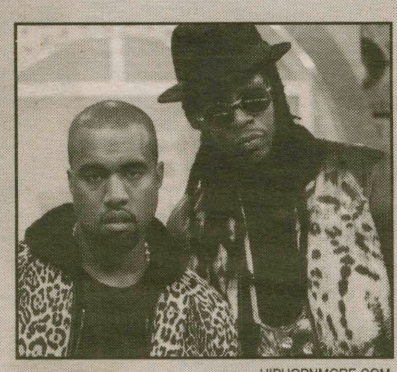
"Birthday"
Two Chainz ft. Kanye West

"All Gold Everything"
Trinidad James

"Pour it Up"
Rihanna

"Watch the Throne"
Jay-Z and Kanye West

The latest and oldest Hip-Hop, R&, and anything RaTChet!!!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Kanye West (left) and Two Chainz perform together.

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Jensen stomps on States, looks ahead to ECACs

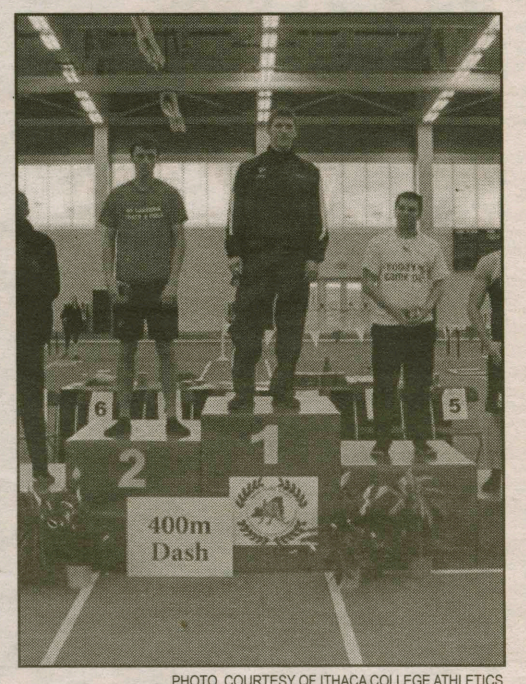

PHOTO COURTESY OF ITHACA COLLEGE ATHLETICS

Sophomore Joe Jensen received the Rookie of the Meet award for topping the podium in both the 200- and 400-meter dashes this weekend.

by Caitlin O'Connor '14
Sports Editor

It's difficult to make it to the podium at States your senior season, let alone your first. But sophomore Joe Jenson, who didn't begin running competitively until this winter, managed to top the podium twice last weekend at the New York State Collegiate Track Conference (NYSCTC) Indoor Championships at Ithaca College.

Heading into the meet, the men hoped to beat their tenth place performance last season. With standout performances by seasoned veterans and rookies alike, the Continentals improved to a sixth place finish against a field of 12 schools.

Many of the men have qualified for ECACs, the last divisional meet before Nationals, which will take place in New York City this weekend. Senior captain Jimmy Alexis easily surpassed the ECAC qualifying height while winning the pole vault by over a foot.

On the track, junior Sam Reider was busy qualifying for ECACs by breaking a 13-year school record in the 500-meter dash. He trailed the leader by only a tenth of a second and broke the previous facility record with a time of 1:06.26.

In the words of Alexis, "We have definitely earned our spots on the van and I look forward to some stand out performances this week."

The true star of the weekend was rookie Joe Jensen. For most members of the team, the indoor season merely provides them with a way to get in shape for the more competitive outdoor season in the spring. Yet for Jensen, track is his third varsity sport at Hamilton. As a wide receiver, he led the football team with 454 total receiving yards this season, surpassing his closest teammate by over 200 yards. In the spring, he pitches for the baseball team.

"Deciding to run track just came about because I wanted to never stop being in season and a part of a team," said Jensen. "Track, or baseball, whether game or practice, is the most enjoyable part of my day so why take a season off?"

> **"Jensen—he showed up in a big way in all of his races and really put Hamilton on the map."**
> *—Jimmy Alexis '13*

In the 200-meter dash, Jensen posted a 22.50, a time good enough to qualify for ECACs next weekend and just five hundredths short of the Hamilton record. At the 400-meter distance, Jensen further asserted his dominance, finishing in a time of 49.69, missing the Hamilton record again by merely a tenth of a second. In addition to qualifying for ECACs in a second event, Jensen also broke the facility record at Ithaca's Glazer Arena.

In addition to his incredible performances on the track, Jensen is well-loved by his teammates off of it as well. When asked who the standout performance of the weekend was, Alexis answered, without hesitation, "Jensen—he showed up in a big way in all of his races and really put Hamilton on the map."

While the women only managed to place 10th, there were impressive performances by several Continentals. Senior Rachel Cackett earned her ticket to ECACs with a sixth place finish in the 3,000-meter run with a time of 10:43.19.

Sophomore Tina Choinski had already qualified for ECACs in the 1,000-meter run earlier this season, but still managed to post a season-best time of 3:06.46 last weekend. She also helped her teammates Jessye McGarry '16, Emily Banzer '15 and Catherine Oglevee '15 in the 4x800-meter relay, resulting in a third place finish with an ECAC qualifying time of 9:54.85.

On the mats, senior Agne Jakubauskaite tied Hamilton's high jump record of 1.58 and punched her ticket to ECACs as well.

With Alexis attempting to qualify for Nationals in Chicago and Jensen a hair away from two program records, this weekend is sure to be full of exciting performances. Reider is even in the same heat as the runner he trailed in the 500-meter at States and is "hoping to get some revenge."

Times aside, Jensen said, "I just want to leave it all on the track and not say I could have done something better."

Let's hope he leaves his opponents and some records behind too.

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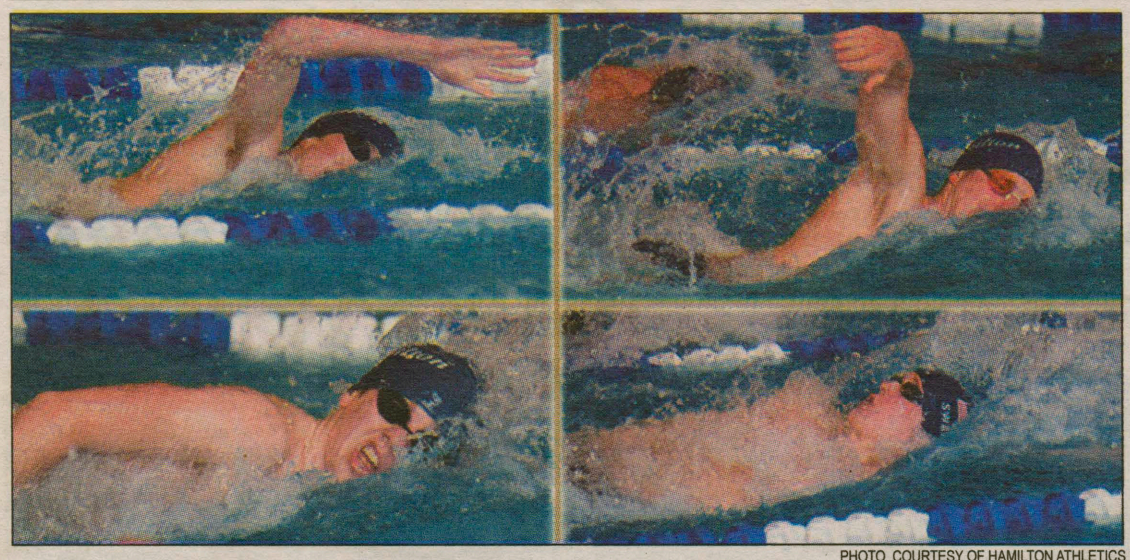

PHOTO COURTESY OF HAMILTON ATHLETICS

Swartz, Hogenkamp, Collins and McBratney received NESCAC all-conference honors.

Splash at NESCACs:

First-years and upperclassmen shine in individual events

*from **Swimming**, page 16*

with a time of 1:00.36. A 400-yard relay composed of Swartz, McBratney, Taylor Hogenkamp '13 and Nichols came in fifth place with a time of 3:09.45. Once again, Coach Davis was pleased to see the success that came in this relay due to the combination of "young blood and dependable veteran talent."

Swartz brought a pleasant surprise to everyone present when he broke the school record for the 50-yard backstroke on the Friday with a time of 23.56 seconds. This was the fastest time in the preliminary heats of the morning. Todd Johnson '08 has held the previous record of 23.9 seconds for the past five years. Swartz said that he "wasn't really expecting to break any record… It was a great feeling though and it made me much more confident going into the rest of my races."

Both men's and women's teams had strong performances across the board, showing that their hard work and consistent effort really can produce positive results. Coach Davis is satisfied with each team's improvement and determination throughout the season. While it will be hard to see seniors like Paverman and Nichols leave the program this year, Coach Davis looks forward to seeing what the younger swimmers will do in the coming seasons.

He noted that "Alex Jones is a young man who can lend his talents in diverse events," including in the freestyle and butterfly. Davis also looks forward to seeing more from Halladay, whose focus is breaststroke but who is also "able to do really amazing things in the 200 breaststroke and 50 spring freestyle."

While the swimmers and divers are the ones performing throughout the season, the guidance and training supplied by their coaches are invaluable. Swartz appreciates that Coach Davis "cares about his swimmers and does a lot to push them and help them drop time in their events." Kelly is equally appreciative, recognizing that assistant coach Madison Krall worked very well the distance group this year and thinks "the results really speak for themselves." She also noted that "I think I speak for everyone when I say that we really are so thankful to have such a great coaching staff behind us!" Thanks to strong coaches, captains, and team dynamics, both swimming & diving teams can feel accomplished having finished their respective seasons on a high note.

Q&A with the Hamilton Equestrian Team

by Alex Orlov '13
Sports Columnist

Founded in 2003, the Hamilton Equestrian Team (HET) is all about horsing around. Composed of 12 women, the team spent last weekend at Alfred University, where they competed in an Intercollegiate Horse Show Association (IHSA) invitational. Competitors included Cornell University, Hobart and William Smith Colleges, Elmira College, Ithaca College, Alfred University, RIT and SUNY schools.

Here to share her unbridled enthusiasm for equestrianism and the club is Sydney Wright-Shaner '13, captain of the team. Wright-Shaner has been riding since the age of four but only began riding in college last year. The majority of HET comes to Hamilton with some riding experience.

How do teams get scored at collegiate shows?
As the captain of the team, I have to choose to point a rider. What this means, essentially, is that I bet on the rider on my team, in each division, who I think is going to win. The riders don't know who is pointed, as to not put pressure on them during the competition. Pointing riders is the only fair way that small teams like Hamilton can compete with big schools, with many riders, like Cornell. Riders are pinned, first through sixth. A first place ribbon is worth 7 points, 2nd, 5, 3rd, 4, 4th, 3, 5th, 2, 6th, 1. The points that all of the pointed riders receive are added up to contribute to the school's score. The school with the highest amount of overall points wins. The riders who are not pointed still amass points. However, their points are used in order for them to place into the next division, which allows them the opportunity to qualify for regionals. Hannah Kolodner '14 and Chelsea Ziegelbaum '14, both of whom placed up, are automatically qualified for regionals in March.

Where do you practice and how do you prepare for horse shows?
We are required to lesson twice per week. Unlike a traditional team, we do not practice together. We have two coaches, Jean Raposa and Darlene Sandlin. The women on the team are either given the option to ride with Jean, Darlene or both. One may also choose to have a private or a semi-private lesson. A semi-private lesson is the only opportunity to ride with other team members. Last semester we tried clinic style lessons before our shows, in which the whole team would practice together, but we found that it was too time consuming and too difficult to coordinate our schedules to continue.

Do you consider equestrianism a sport? Why/why not?
I most certainly consider equestrianism a sport. In fact, it is one of the oldest sports, dating back to approximately 4,500 B.C. Many people don't consider riding to be a sport because "the horse is doing all of the work," which is a common misconception. Getting a horse to move beautifully on the flat, helping them find the correct distance over a jump, controlling the length of their stride, all of these skills require years and years of fine-tuning and countless hours of practice. In addition, riding especially develops leg and core strength, as well as stamina.

Are there any team traditions? Bonding activities?
We have a lot of fun at horse shows. They start at around 8:30 in the morning, but we often have to be there around 7:15. Though riders only show in one or two events, we have to be at the show all day. Shows will last anywhere between 8:30-4:30. As captain, I always try to bring a lot of snacks. Food, as well as horses, is a common passion for the equestrian team.

What is your favorite part of being on the team? Do you have a favorite memory?
I find that I become extremely close with a couple of new people on the team after our away shows. Because we don't practice together, shows are really one of our only opportunities for getting to spend time with our teammates. Shows serve as a great place to make friends, which is my favorite thing about being on the show team, as opposed to just riding on my own.

Has the team changed since you've been at Hamilton?
We rode with a different coach my freshman year, but then part of the team moved to ride with Jean Raposa at White Fox Farm. Jean has had a couple of different assistant coaches. Last semester, a couple of girls on the team, who board their horses with Darlene Sandlin at Fair Haven Farm, suggested that a partnership between the two trainers might serve to make the team even more competitive. The alliance seems to have done just that. The women on our team are improving markedly, due to the exposure to the expertise of both coaches.

What is one thing most people don't know about competitive horseback riding? (i.e., a particular event or funny article of clothing...)
It is necessary for women to wear a hairnet under their helmets in competitions.

PHOTO COURTESY OF SYDNEY WRIGHT-SCHANER '13

Senior captain Sydney Wright-Schaner poses with Hannah Kolodner '14, who has qualified for Regionals.

H SPECTATOR SPORTS
February 28, 2013

Swimmers sink team records at NESCAC finals

PHOTO BY KEVIN PRIOR '13

Lauren Halladay '16, Maggie Rosenbaum '14, Sarah Hooper '16 and Joanie Burton '13 are all smiles after standout NESCAC performances.

by Sirianna Santacrose '15
Sports Editor

The stage was set. Or rather, the pool was set to 82 degrees, the ideal temperature for a swimming and diving competition. The weekend of Feb. 15, the women's swimming & diving team competed against NESCAC competitors in the NESCAC Championship Finals hosted at Bowdoin College's Leroy Greason Pool. By the end of the weekend, the Continentals placed ninth with 594 team points. The weekend was marked by numerous standout performances and several distinguishing honors for individual athletes.

First-years Sarah Hooper and Lauren Halladay both had strong meets and showed their ability to perform under pressure in the preconsolation finals. Hooper added her name to sixth place on Hamilton's top times list for her sixth place finish in the 100-yard freestyle preconsolation final with a time of 54.1 seconds. Halladay placed first in the 100 breastroke preconsolation final with a time of 1:07.73, which put her third on Hamilton's top times list. Hooper and Halladay accompanied Maggie Rosenbaum '14 and Joanie Burton '13 in the 200 medley relay, which finished fifth with a time of 1:46.74. Head Coach T.J. Davis was very happy with the women's relay performances, noting that "they epitomize teamwork in an individual sport." He also enjoyed watching "a combination of some veterans and some new people" come together to make such a cohesive relay team.

McKenna Kelly '15, Rosenbaum and Diane Paverman '13 earned high honors across the board. Paverman received the Four-Year High Point Diver Award, seeing as she has racked up more team points than any other diver at the NESCAC meet over her collegiate career. While Kelly's 1,650-yard freestyle time of 17:46.1 earned second place on Hamilton's top times list, another performance of hers stood out even more. In 1995, Liz Schol '96 held the top time for the 1,000-yard freestyle event. This past weekend, Kelly beat Schol's time by 3.46 seconds, breaking a record that had not been touched in eighteen years. Kelly is very excited to have broken this long-standing record, saying it is "such an honor [to have] my name… up on the record board." Coach Davis was equally happy for her, especially having watched her "flirt with that record" in the past.

> **"I think I speak for everyone when I say that we are so thankful to have such a great coaching staff behind us!"**
> *—McKenna Kelly '15*

Rosenbaum was selected as swimmer of the meet for the second consecutive year. She felt honored to be chosen for this distinction again and feels thrilled to have had the chance to compete alongside "so many accomplished athletes." She set championship meet records in two of her events, including the 50-yard backstroke with a time of 25.8 seconds on Friday. She also continued her winning streak in the backstroke events, all nine of which she has won in the past three years at the NESCAC championship. Her time of 54.7 seconds in the 100 back on Saturday qualified her for the NCAA Division III championships in March, where she will swim the 100 butterfly and the 100 and 200 backstroke. Rosenbaum currently holds two national titles in the 100 back event. Although Coach Davis realizes Maggie is under a lot of pressure to defend her title, he commends her for embracing the opportunity and treating "each season as a single, separate entity. She doesn't tie assumptions of one year to the next, which is a healthy way for her to manage [the pressure]." The Division III championships will take place at the Conroe ISD Natatorium, a $14 million world-class indoor swimming, diving and Olympic training facility, in Shenandoah, Texas.

The following weekend, it was the men's chance to show their prowess at the NESCAC Championship finals held at Wesleyan University's Natatorium. While Williams took home the team title with 1,936.5 points, the Continentals worked hard to keep up a consistent morale and high level of performance that helped them to take eighth place by the end of the weekend.

Many of the athletes earned spots on Hamilton's top times list and had strong performances. Sophomore Reid Swartz's time of 1:54.91 in the prelims put him at third place on the team's top times list. John McBratney '16 earned fourth place on the program's top times list for his time of 9:44.68 in the 1,000 freestyle event. Senior Ian Nichols notably took first place in the preconsolation final for the 100-yard breaststroke with a time of 1:00.08. Alex Jones '16 took second place right behind Nichols in this final

see ***Swimming,*** *page 15*